

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 660
By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor Rutherford County, Tennessee on its
bicentennial celebration.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to
join with the citizens of the cities and counties that comprise this great State in celebrating
joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Rutherford County are most assuredly deserving of special
recognition, as they commemorate the county's bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee received a petition that
established Rutherford County as the State's 24th county on October 25, 1803; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County is currently home to more than 182,000 fine citizens in
several unincorporated communities and four municipalities: Eagleville, LaVergne, Smyrna, and
Murfreesboro, the county's largest city and the county seat; and

WHEREAS, the county has been the scene of many historically significant events and is
the home of a number of historic landmarks; and

WHEREAS, from December 31, 1862, through January 2, 1863, the people of Rutherford County witnessed the Battle of Stones River, a pivotal encounter during the Civil War; history is preserved for future generations at the Stones River National Battlefield, a 350-acre national park; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County is also home to Oaklands Historic House Museum, included on the National Register of Historic Landmarks; one of the largest plantations in Rutherford County during the Civil War era, it was the negotiation site for the Union's surrender at Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, a number of other Civil War sites are located in Rutherford County, including Fortress Rosecrans and the Sam Davis Home; and

WHEREAS, the Rutherford County Courthouse is one of the oldest courthouses in Tennessee still serving its original purpose; the courthouse is surrounded by the Main Street Historic District, encompassing 52 blocks of historic buildings and regarded as one of the nation's model commercial district revitalization projects; and

WHEREAS, the county's Cannonsburgh Village is home to the world's largest red cedar bucket, a 2,000-gallon container made in Murfreesboro in 1887 to commemorate Rutherford County's then-leadership as a producer and exporter of red cedar; and

WHEREAS, Murfreesboro, a city of 68,616, was once the capital of Tennessee, and is now home to Middle Tennessee State University, the oldest and largest public university in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County is also the home of Bradley Academy, a restored 1917 African-American School; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County is truly central to Tennessee: in 1834, it was first established that on Lascassas Pike, one mile from the square in Murfreesboro, is located the exact geographical center of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as many more people have begun to understand the opportunities available to them in Rutherford County, it has grown substantially; between the 1980 census and the 1990 census, the county grew 41%, and it continues to grow at a rate of about 6% per year; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, 2003, the people of Rutherford County will celebrate the county's 200th Birthday; the milestone will be marked with a county-wide Heritage Festival to showcase the history and culture of the county and its people; and

WHEREAS, as part of the bicentennial celebration, at 2 p.m. on the 25th, birthday celebrations will be held simultaneously at many different locations throughout Rutherford County; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County is one of the great counties in Tennessee and has been a catalyst for positive change in our State and nation throughout its illustrious existence; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this fine county and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the citizens of Rutherford County upon the celebration of the county's bicentennial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.